

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A system for archiving time sequenced media content from a media signal, the system comprising:

(a) a network;

5 (b) a data storage device operatively connected to the network, the data storage device being adapted to store blocks of media data in an addressable and retrievable manner;

10 (c) capture server, being adapted to receive the media signal, and being operatively connected to the network thereby being able to write blocks of media data to the data storage device in an addressable and retrievable manner, the capture server comprising:

15 (i) encoder, for digitizing the media signal into a time-sequence of digital frames and a corresponding audio component;

20 (ii) converter for converting the time-sequence of digital frames into plurality of sequential media blocks, each of the sequential media blocks comprising the data representing a consecutive number of digital frames and the corresponding audio components;

(iii) storage manager for determining an address for each of the sequential media blocks; and

(iv) storing processor, for writing each of the sequential media blocks to a location corresponding to the address determined by the storage manager.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the consecutive number of digital frames is a predetermined number.

3. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the network is a wide-area network.

4. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the network is a storage area network.

5. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the encoder is one from the group consisting of an MPEG encoder, and an AVI encoder.

6. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the media signal is one from the group consisting of a broadcast channel television signal, a cable channel signal, and a satellite channel signal.

7. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the predetermined consecutive number of digital frames corresponds to a period between 1 second and 5 minutes.

8. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the predetermined consecutive number of digital frames corresponds to a period of approximately 1 minutes.

5 9. A system for archiving time sequenced media content from a digital media signal, the digital media signal having a time-sequence of digital frames and a corresponding audio component, the system comprising:

(a) a network;

10 (b) a data storage device operatively connected to the network, the data storage device being adapted to store blocks of media data in an addressable and retrievable manner;

15 (c) capture server, being adapted to receive the digital media signal, and being operatively connected to the network thereby being able to write blocks of media data to the data storage device in an addressable and retrievable manner, the capture server comprising:

20 (i) converter for converting the digital media signal into plurality of sequential media blocks, each of the sequential media blocks comprising the data representing a

consecutive number of digital frames and the corresponding audio components;

(ii) storage manager for determining an address for each of the sequential media blocks; and

5 (iii) storing processor, for writing each of the sequential media blocks to a location corresponding to the address determined by the storage manager.

10. A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the consecutive number of digital frames is a predetermined number.

11. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the network is a wide-area network.

12. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the network is a storage area network.

13. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the digital media
15 signal is one from the group consisting of an MPEG signal or an AVI signal.

14. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the predetermined consecutive number of digital frames corresponds to a period between 1 second and 5 minutes.

15. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the predetermined consecutive number of digital frames corresponds to a period of approximately 1 minutes.

16. A method for archiving on a data storage device time

5 sequenced media content from a media signal, the data storage device being operatively connected a network, and being adapted to store blocks of media data in an addressable and retrievable manner, the network also being operatively connected to a capture server, the capture server being adapted to receive the media signal, and, via the network, the capture server being adapted to write blocks of media data to the data storage device in an addressable and retrievable manner, the method comprising the steps of:

10 (a) digitizing the media signal into a time-sequence of digital frames and a corresponding audio component;

(b) converting the time-sequence of digital frames into plurality of sequential media blocks, each of the sequential media blocks comprising the data representing a consecutive number of digital frames and the corresponding audio components;

20 (c) determining an address for each of the sequential media blocks; and

(d) writing each of the sequential media blocks to a location corresponding to the address determined by the storage manager.

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